

which is paler and brighter toward the mouth." The two descriptions of Walker may really refer to the same species, assuming that the brown spot on the knob of the halteres was overlooked in *glaber*.

Walker's *albiflorens* seems to approach *pirata*, having infuscated halteres and unspotted wings, but so many characters are omitted or vaguely mentioned that a decision is impossible.

His *viridiflos* has been identified with my *intentus*, but as I understand the expressions used, it is much more nearly related to *aestuum*, a widely different species. At least it is a small eastern species with the wings pale at the base.

These conclusions will show the uselessness of trying to "do something" with Walker's names. If anything, I have gone too far in assuming that I have identified one species. An examination of Walker's types is the only process that will settle the matter; even that will have only a bibliographical value, and will not advance entomology in the least, assuming that we already know all of his species under some name, which is highly probable. I have heard of one entomologist who in recent years did in fact examine a part of Walker's types of Dolichopodidæ, and who had the self-restraint on coming home to say nothing about what he found, deeming it best not to disturb existing nomenclature. And he is a man who has contributed vastly to entomology in more than one order.

THE DIPTEROUS GENUS DIOSTRACUS LOEW.

(Pl. 8.—figs. 15-18.)

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The genus *Diostracus* was founded by Loew in his *Neue Beiträge*, VIII, 43, 1861, and redescribed in *Monographs*, II, 120, 1864; the entire second notice is merely a translation of the first, both as to the genus and the single species, with the addition of one or two unimportant comments.¹ The typical and sole species, *prasinus*, was collected by Osten Sacken in New York, presumably near New York City. It has apparently not been collected since

¹ Note.—On page 122 of the monograph, the expression regarding the middle tarsi, "the first joint about as long as the other three taken together," should have been translated "the first joint about as long as the following three," etc.

the time of its discovery; at least, there are no references to it in literature, and I have never seen it in any collection examined by me. The discovery of a second species in the Puget sound region enables me to add some chaetotactic characters, and for convenience I redescribe the genus.

Generic characters.—Male. Antennæ of medium size and simple form, first joint moderately elongated, hairy above, the second short, hairy above and below, the third short with a rounded tip and almost basal arista, which is of medium length and has a very short pubescence. Face wide, short, with a strong transverse suture, the lower part ending in a point in the middle; palpi very large, folded loosely across the front of the large, bulky proboscis, which extends broadly up under the neck. Occiput convex, nearly horizontal above, with a row of orbital bristles extending to the mouth and only sparse beard below; postvertical bristles two, verticals two, as large as the ocellar. Thorax with absolutely no small hairs on the dorsum except at the extreme front edge; no acrostichals; six strong pairs of dorsocentrals; scutellars one pair and several hairs on the edge; humeral one and a few hairs; notopleurals two; posthumeral one; supra-alar two; postsutural one or two small; propleural one rather weak; a row across the first abdominal segment. Pleura bare. Metanotum large, nearly horizontal. Abdomen with six visible segments dorsally besides the hypopygium, which is small but not much embedded; fourth sternite bent out in a V-shape. Hind metatarsus longer than following segment; hind coxa without an erect bristle on the outside. Wings rather long, third and fourth veins nearly parallel, ending in the apex, second vein ending a little before the apex, hind crossvein less than its length from the hind margin.

Female. Face still wider, palpi not quite so large, more pointed and hairy. Two good-sized postsuturals.

It will be observed that the added generic characters are not drawn from the type species; but the close correspondence of the new species with the type in all essential known characters of the latter makes it highly probable that the type shows these newly mentioned ones also. The relationships of the genus are evidently with *Thinophilus*, as stated by Loew; five species of *Thinophilus* examined by me all agree in having no acrostichals, but differ from *Diostracus* in having the first antennal joint bare and shorter, and in having one notopleural bristle instead of two. In most of their characters, including the large palpi, the two genera are much alike.

Diostracus olga sp. nov.

Male. Occiput thickly gray pollinose, showing only a little greenish ground color; postorbitals rather scattering, black, the row extending to the mouth; beard of only a few yellowish hairs; front short and wide, gray pollinose, ocellar tubercle

prominent; face grayish above the prominent suture, shining green below it; palpi large, yellow in ground color, with snow-white shining luster on the outer side, which has only a few hairs, of a yellowish-brown color, mostly along the upper or front edge; eyes prominent and rounded, extending much below the side of the face, but not much below the pointed middle of the face; antennæ wholly blackish, as described under the generic characters. Thorax pure bright green above, not very shining, with two narrow brown lines extending from the front almost to the scutellum, close together, also a long and rather wide brown spot on each side, extending about equally before and behind the suture; humeri and a stripe above the notopleural suture pruinose with whitish; pleura wholly covered with a thin greenish-gray pruinosity, which also covers the metapleura; propleura with a brownish bristle and one or two hairs; squama brownish, with yellowish hairs; halteres yellow. Coxæ and legs blackish, with little greenish luster, the tips of coxæ, the trochanters and extreme base of femora yellow, tips of femora and bases of tibiæ also yellow; front coxæ with thin white hair on front side and a few black bristles at tip; all the femora quite destitute of bristles except a preapical one on the middle and hind ones; tibiæ plain, with ordinary bristles; tarsi plain, with small pulvilli and empodia. Wings uniformly infuscated, the veins dark. Abdomen short, grayish-green, not shining, with black hairs, which attain the size of bristles only along the hind edge of the first segment, especially toward the sides; hypopygium with two black lamellæ hanging down from posterior part. Length, 4 mm.; of wing, 5 mm.

Female. Face wider, not very shining, rather grayish-brown below the suture, the palpi more pointed than in the male, covered with coarse black hair and grayish pollen, which is paler along the lower edge. The postsutural bristles are uniformly larger than in the male, always two on each side. Length, 4.9 mm.; of wing, 6.1 mm.

Three males and three females, collected by myself near Olga, Orcas Id., Wash., July 14, 1909. One male, collected by Professor Melander near the same place, July 28, 1909.

All the specimens were taken on rocks along a little brook in a very shady place.

The wholly yellow legs of *prasinus*, among other characters, easily distinguish it from *olga*.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE.

- Fig. 1. *Hydrophorus cerutias* Loew, wing of male.
 2. " *phoca* sp. nov. wing of male.
 3. " *parvus* Loew, wing.
 4. " *intentus* sp. nov. back of head, showing supernumerary postvertical bristles.
 5. " *cerutias* Loew, side of head of male.
 6. " *magdelenæ* Wheeler, side of head showing wide cheek.
 7. " *pensus* sp. nov. abdomen and hind femur of male.

- Fig. 8. *Hydrophorus amplexens* sp. nov. side of abdomen of male.
 9. " *canescens* Wheeler, front femur and tibia of male.
 10. " *brevisetia* Thomson, front tibia of male.
 11. " " " upper view of tip of left middle tarsus,
 male.
 12. " *agalma* Wheeler, upper view of tip of middle tarsus, male.
 13. " *amplectens* sp. nov., part of front femur and tibia of
 male.
 14. " *philombrius* Wheeler, front femur and tibia of male.
 15. *Diostracus olga* sp. nov., side view of male.
 16. " " " front view of head of male.
 17. " " " antenna of male outer side.
 18. " " " wing of male.

NOTES ON THE DIPTEROUS GENERA PROPOSED BY BILLBERG IN HIS ENUMERATIO INSECTORUM¹

My attention has been recently called to this work by Mr. Henry L. Viereck who was endeavoring to locate some genotypes in the Hymenoptera. A copy of this rare book was presented to the library of the Boston Society of Natural History by Mr. Samuel H. Scudder. In looking over the pages (112-123) pertaining to Diptera I find the following generic names:

"Tichodantha Eg.²—Mosillus Ltr.,—Musca Ol." No species are mentioned.

Under "1 Divis. alis divaricatis, 1 subdivis. antennis capite medio brevioribus," page 118, appears the following:—

"Blera Eg.—Eristalis Flln.—Syrphus Fbr. Ltr.—Musca Ol. *fallax* Svec. Linn. *cæmiteriorum* Svec. Linn."

Recognizing *Cynorhina* Will. (1886) as has been done by Verrall, (Brit. Flies, VIII, 590) *Musca fallax* Linn. becomes the type of Blera, or considering *Cynorhina* to be a synonym of *Criorhina* Meigen, 1822, and ignoring *Penthesilea* Meigen, 1800, *Criorhina* also becomes a synonym of Blera. *Musca cæmiteriorum* Linn. is a doubtful species considered by some to be the same as *Chrysogaster solstitialis* Fall.

"Dones Eg.—Doros Mgn. III—Syrphus Auct. Pler.—Scaeva Flln.—Musca el [Ol].

¹Enumeratio Insectorum in Museo, Gustav Johann Billberg. [Holmiæ] Typis Gadelianis Gadel, 1820.

²Eg. "Auctor hujus operis."